GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3166
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2002
ARREST OF EX-ENVOY UNDER COFEPOSA
M.H. AMBAREESH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a former Ambassador of a country and his wife have been arrested under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Act (COFEPOSA) recently;

(b) if so, the total foreign currency found in the possession of the detained Ex- Envoy;

(c) the reasons for not filling the chargesheet by the Government within the stipulated period of two months (60 days);

(d) whether the Government have sufficient reasons to believe that the Ex-Envoy was also dealing in Indian antiques;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to recover the antiques?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(a) The total foreign currency found in the possession of the detained Ex- Envoy and his wife is as under:

Sl.No.	Currency	Total Value
1.	US$	8,13,620
2.	UAE Dhirhams	95,000
3.	Saudi Riyals	5,95,750
4.	Qatar Riyals	5,500
5.	Dutch Mark	8,000
6.	U.K. Pounds	50
7.	Canadian Dollars	130

(b) The complaint could not be filed within 60 days because of the pending investigations at the relevant time in this case. However, complaint has since been filed in the competent Court of the ACMM, Patiala House, New Delhi on 13.03.2002.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) & (f): In view of the reply to part (d) above, the questions do not arise.